

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates installation and/or removal of components that includes at least one shared component, comprising:
  - a validation engine that provides a valid order, the order referentially consistent relative to each of the components; and
  - an installer that controls at least one of an install and removal operation of the components based on the valid order, the installer ~~and that~~ manipulates at least one property associated with the at least one shared component to reflect dependency for the at least one shared component relative to one or more other components that depend on the shared component according to the installation or removal thereof, the at least one shared component automatically subsumes one or more property associated with previously installed shared components, the at least one property further comprises a reference count having a value indicative of a number of dependent components associated with the at least one shared component.
2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the valid order identifies shared components for installation subsequent to non-shared components.
3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, the installer initiates a method to install each of the components based on the valid order during a part of the installation, the at least one shared component being installed and configured for a selected dependent component during the first part of installation.
4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, the method employs a second part of the installation to install the at least one shared component for each dependent

component other than the selected dependent component during the second part of the installation.

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[5]] 1, the installer increases the value of the reference count for each installation of the at least one shared component.
7. (Previously presented) The system of claim [[5]] 1, the installer decreases the value of the reference count in response to removal of a dependent component that depends on the at least one shared component.
8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least one property further comprises configuration data that indicates an operating relationship of the at least one shared component and each installed dependent component associated with the at least one shared component.
9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the installer controls installation of the at least one shared component, such that a single set of files for the at least one shared component are copied as part of the installation for use by associated dependent components.
10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, the at least one shared component has associated metadata that identifies the at least one shared component as a shared component.
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, the at least one shared component requires at least one dependent component to perform a substantially useful function.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, a runtime dependency exists between an installed dependent component and the shared component on which the dependent component depends.

13. (Currently Amended) A system that effectuates installation of components including at least one shared component, comprising:

a setup manager that controls installation of the components;

dependency manager that provides a valid installation order based on metadata associated with at least some of the components, the valid installation order generated to ensure that relative dependencies between the components are resolved prior to installation;

the setup manager causes the components to be installed according to the valid installation order, a separate shared installation of the at least one shared component being implemented for each dependent component that depends on the at least one shared component, the separate shared installation comprises incrementing a reference count value indicative of a number of dependent components associated with the at least one shared component, and configuring properties of the at least one shared component, which preserves properties associated with previously installed shared components.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, the dependency manager validates a received installation order, which, upon validation of the received installation order, becomes the valid installation order.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14, when the received installation order is improper, the dependency manager creates the valid installation order.

16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, metadata associated with the at least one shared component identifies the at least one shared component as a shared component.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, the setup manager initiates a method to install each of the components according to the valid installation order during a first part of the installation, the at least one shared component being installed for a first dependent component during the first part of installation, the method installs the at least one shared component for each other dependent component during a second part of the installation.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising at least one property associated with an installed instance of the at least one shared component that reflects dependency for the at least one shared component.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[19]] 13, the setup manager controls the value of the reference count as a function of each installation and removal of the at least one shared component.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, the at least one property further comprises configuration data that indicates an operating relationship of the at least one shared component and each dependent component associated with the shared component.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 13, the setup manager controls installation of the at least one shared component based on the valid installation order, such that a single set of program files for the shared component is copied as part of the installation.

23. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates installation and/or removal of components including at least one shared component, comprising:

a validation component that receives a list of components to be installed and/or removed and provides a valid order based on setup data, the validation component resolves all relative inter-component conflicts prior to installation and/or removal of

components, the list of components to be installed and/or removed organized in an invalid order; and

a setup engine that initiates installation of each of the components according to the valid order during a first part of the installation, the shared component being installed for a first dependent component during the first part of installation, the shared component being installed for each other dependent component during a second part of the installation separate from the first part, the second part of the installation comprising incrementing a reference count value indicative of a number of dependent components associated with the at least one shared component, and configuring properties of the shared component, which automatically retains a property associated with a previously installed shared component.

24. (Currently Amended) A system that facilitates installation and/or removal of components including at least one shared component, comprising:

a dependency manager that receives a list of components to be installed and/or removed and provides a valid order based on setup data, the validation component resolves all relative inter-component conflicts prior to installation and/or removal of the components, the list of components to be installed and/or removed organized in a random order;

a setup engine that initiates installation of each of the components according to the valid order during a first part of the installation, the shared component being installed for a first dependent component during the first part of installation, the shared component being installed for each other dependent component during a second part of the installation, which is subsequent to the first part, a reference count value is maintained corresponding to a number of dependent components associated with the at least one shared component; the shared component being installed for the first dependent component acquires properties associated with a shared component previously installed and associated with the first dependent component, and

a setup manager that manipulates at least one property associated with the at least one shared component to reflect dependency characteristics of the at least one shared

component as a function of at least one of installation of the shared component and removal of a dependent component that depends on the at least one shared component.

25. (Currently Amended) A system that effectuates installation and/or removal of components including at least one shared component, comprising:

- means for providing a valid order for the components, the valid order referentially consistent relative to each of the components;

- means for controlling installation of the components based on the valid order; and

- means for manipulating at least one property associated with the at least one shared component to reflect dependency for the at least one shared component relative to one or more dependent components that depend on the shared component based on at least one installation of the shared component and removal of a dependent component ~~that depends on the at least one shared component~~, prior to replacement of a currently installed shared component with the at least one shared component, the at least one shared component automatically acquires previously affixed properties associated with the currently installed shared component, the at least one property further comprises a reference count value that indicates of a number of dependent components.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for installing and/or removing components including at least one shared component, the method comprising:

- providing a valid order that is consistent relative to each of the components;

- installing each of the plurality of components based on the valid order; [[and]]

- incrementing a reference count value indicative of each of the plurality of components associated with the at least one shared component; and

- modifying at least one property associated with the at least one shared component to reflect dependency characteristics of the at least one shared component relative dependent components that utilize the at least one shared component, the at least one shared component acquires existing properties of shared components that the at least one shared component supercedes on installation.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[27]] 26, further comprising controlling the value of the reference count in response to each installation of the at least one shared component and removal of a dependent component that depends on the at least one shared component.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising effecting installation of each of the components during a first part of installation according to the valid order, the shared component being installed for a first dependent component during the first part of the installation.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising effecting installation of the shared component for each other dependent component that depends on the shared component during a second part of the installation, which is separate from the first part.

31. (Currently Amended) A method to facilitate installing and/or removing components including at least one shared component, the method comprising:

providing a valid order referentially consistent relative to each of the installed and/or removed components;

effecting installation of each of the components during a first part of installation according to the valid order, the shared component being installed for a first dependent component during the first part of the installation;

effecting installation of the shared component for each other dependent component during a second part of the installation separate from the first part, the shared component acquires one or more extant properties associated with a shared component made obsolete and removed by installation of the shared component;

manipulating at least one property associated with the at least one shared component to reflect dependency for the at least one shared component relative to at least one dependent component according to the installation or removal thereof.